

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-49 were pending. Claims 1-7, 9-10, 12-16, 19-21, 24-35, 37-38, 40-43, and 45-49 were rejected. Claims 8, 11, 17-18, 22-23, 36, 39, and 44 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent forms including all based and intervening claims (see, 2/25/2005 Office Action, page 9).

In this response, claims 8, 11, 17, 22, 24-28, 36, 39, 44, and 47-49 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-2, 6-7, 9-10, 14, 18-19, 23, 29, 37-38, and 42 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Specifically, claims 2, 6-7, 10, and 38 have been amended to overcome 35 U.S.C. 112 rejections and informality objections.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include substantially all limitations of the objected to claim 8. Independent claim 9 has been amended to include substantially all limitations of the objected to claim 11. Independent claim 14 has been amended to include substantially all limitations of the objected to claim 17. Claim 23 has been amended as an independent claim including substantially all limitations of its base and intervening claims. Independent claim 29 has been amended to include substantially all limitations of the objected to claim 36. Independent claim 37 has been amended to include substantially all limitations of the objected to claim 39. Independent claim 42 has been amended to include substantially all limitations of the objected to claim 44.

Thus, independent claims 1, 9, 14, 19, 23, 29, 37, and 42 as amended are allowable.

Given that the rest of the pending claims depend from one of the above independent claims, it is respectfully submitted that the rest of the claims are also allowable.

While Applicant does not concede that the Examiner's position is correct on the merits, Applicant has sought to obtain the claims that were objected to. Applicant hereby reserves the right to pursue the canceled claims in the subsequent prosecution of the present application.

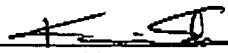
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any shortage of fees in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

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Kevin G. Shao
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 45,095

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300